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(54) Title: INHIBITORS OF SERINE PROTEASES, PARTICULARLY HEPATITIS C VIRUS NS3 PROTEASE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compounds that are useful as protease inhibitors, particularly as serine protease inhibitors, and more particularly as hepatitis C NS3 protease inhibitors. As such, they act by interfering with the life cycle of the hepatitis C virus and are also useful as antiviral agents. This invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising these compounds. The compounds and pharmaceutical compositions of this invention are particularly well suited for inhibiting HCV NS3 protease activity and consequently, may be advantageously used as therapeutic agents against the hepatitis C virus and other viruses that are dependent upon a serine protease for proliferation. This invention also relates to methods for inhibiting the activity of proteases, including hepatitis C virus NS3 protease and other serine proteases, using the compounds of this invention and related compounds.



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